

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY  
TRENTON DIVISION

**HANNAH APPIAH,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**PERFORMANT RECOVERY, INC.;  
and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,**

Defendants.

**Civil Action No.**

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR  
JURY TRIAL**

**COMPLAINT**

***I. INTRODUCTION***

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages brought by Plaintiff, Hannah Appiah, an individual consumer, against Defendant, Performant Recovery, Inc., for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* (hereinafter “FDCPA”), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.

***II. JURISDICTION***

2. Jurisdiction of this court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1337. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202. Venue in this District is proper in that the Defendant transacts business here.

***III. PARTIES***

3. Plaintiff, Hannah Appiah, is a natural person with a permanent residence in Somerset, Somerset County, New Jersey 08873.

4. Upon information and belief, the Defendant, Performant Recovery, Inc., is a corporation engaged in the business of collecting debt in this state and in several other states, with its principal place of business located at 333 North Canyons Parkway, Suite 100, Livermore, Alameda County, California 94551. The principal purpose of Defendant is the collection of debts in this state and several other states, and Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another.

5. Defendant is engaged in the collection of debts from consumers using the mail and telephone. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts alleged to be due to another. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

#### ***IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS***

6. The debt that Defendant is attempting to collect on is an alleged obligation of a consumer to pay money arising out of a transaction in which the money, property, insurance or services which are the subject of the transaction are primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, whether or not such obligation has been reduced to judgment.

7. Within one (1) year preceding the date of this Complaint, Defendant, in connection with the collection of the alleged debt, attempted to communicate with Plaintiff at her place of employment after being informed that this inconvenienced Plaintiff and/or was conduct prohibited by Plaintiff’s employer.

8. The natural consequences of Defendant’s statements and actions were to unjustly condemn and vilify Plaintiff for her non-payment of the debt she allegedly owed.

9. The natural consequences of Defendant’s statements and actions were to produce an unpleasant and/or hostile situation between Defendant and Plaintiff.

10. The natural consequences of Defendant's statements and actions were to cause Plaintiff mental distress.

11. Defendant utilized unfair and unconscionable means to collect on Plaintiff's alleged debt, by attempting to communicate with Plaintiff at her place of employment after being informed that this inconvenienced Plaintiff and/or was conduct prohibited by Plaintiff's employer.

#### **V. CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

12. Plaintiff repeats and realleges and incorporates by reference to the foregoing paragraphs.

13. Defendant violated the FDCPA. Defendant's violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Defendant violated §1692c(a)(3) of the FDCPA by communicating with the Plaintiff at the Plaintiff's place of employment when the Defendant knew or had reason to know that the Plaintiff's employer prohibits the Plaintiff from receiving such communication; and
- (b) Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequences of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of an alleged debt; and
- (c) Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair or unconscionable means in connection with the collection of an alleged debt.

14. Defendant's acts as described above were done intentionally with the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt.

15. As a result of the foregoing violations of the FDCPA, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff, Hannah Appiah, for declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, and costs and attorney fees.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against Defendant, Performant Recovery, Inc., for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA.
- B. Actual damages.
- C. Statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- D. Costs and reasonable attorney fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
- E. Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law.
- F. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, Hannah Appiah, demands trial by jury in this action.

DATED: April 24, 2013

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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